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Study shows crop production supports 103,000 jobs

An economic analysis conducted by Texas Tech University and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension found crop production supported more than 103,000 jobs and generated more than \$12.2 billion in economic activity in 2010 in the Texas High Plains region.

Those findings come from a new, first of its kind economic model that can now be used to measure the economic effects of different policy options such as changes in water regulations, energy costs, and federal farm programs according to one of the leaders of the research, Darren Hudson, Ph.D., the Larry Combest Endowed Chair for Agricultural Competitiveness at Texas Tech.

"We've always known crop production was a huge part of the economy of this region, but now we have a comprehensive model that can measure in dollars and jobs the total amount of economic activity generated by growing, selling and processing crops in the

Texas High Plains," Hudson said at a press conference held today in Lubbock.

The measures in the study reflect the impact of a wide variety of economic activity including production costs, such as buying seed, fertilizer, fuel, labor and equipment, as well as post-production processing of crops in the area, including livestock and dairy usage, cotton gins, grain elevators and other relevant processing.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Program Specialist Bridget Guerrero, Ph.D., a lead researcher on the study, elaborated that the study also includes the effects of the spending by businesses and individuals who earn income from all of these activities.

"This is a unique approach to this kind of analysis that isn't done anywhere else in the country," Guerrero said. "We're really on the forefront of being able to determine the full impact of agricultural production to

the regional economy, and not just a piece of it."

Economists will use this newly developed model to assess the economic impact of potential policy changes, including changes in regulations on using groundwater for irrigating crops.

The study used a five-year average (2006-2010) of crop production in 41 counties in the Texas High Plains.

The crops analyzed were alfalfa, corn, corn silage, cotton, peanuts, grain sorghum, sorghum silage and wheat.

The research project was launched in April 2010 through financial contributions from Texas commodity groups.

Representatives from five water districts and six commodity groups serve on a steering committee for the project.

Funding for this research was made possible by numerous ag industry groups and conservation districts in the High Plains region.

Police Dispatch

Dec. 3
PI - A male suspect was arrested for public intoxication during an investigation of a disturbance about 2:22 a.m. in the 400 block of East Ripley Street.

Dec. 2
Criminal trespass - A 27-year-old woman was arrested for criminal trespass during an investigation of a disturbance about 7 p.m. in the 900 block of North Avenue A. Officers discovered evidence of drug paraphernalia at the scene.

Dec. 1
Assault - Lionel Morin, 57, was arrested about 9:30 p.m. in the 700 block of East Tate Street on a felony retaliation charge and for assault/family violence causing bodily injury and interfering with an emergency phone call. A female assault victim was taken from the scene to receive emergency medical care.

A 27-year-old woman reportedly assaulted a male acquaintance about 10:30 p.m. in the 400 block of West Lake Street by throwing a rock at his head.

Criminal mischief - A female suspect was arrested about 1:20 a.m. in the 700 block of Shinnery Lane on an outstanding warrant for misdemeanor criminal mischief.

Illegal weapon - A 10-year-old boy was arrested for unlawful carrying of a weapon after he was found walking about

4:20 a.m. in the 1400 block of Tahoka Road in possession of brass knuckles, an illegal weapon.

Nov. 30
Fraud - Officers investigated a report of an unauthorized account opened in a victim's name.

Hit-and-run - A 22-year-old man was arrested for leaving the scene of a minor traffic accident about 7:07 p.m. in the 500 block of Lubbock Road.

Theft - Officers investigated a theft report from the 700 block of East Felt Street.

Nov. 29
Theft - Some prescription medication was reported stolen from the 1300 block of Tahoka Road.

Burglary - Officers discovered evidence of home invasions in the 400 block of East Stewart Street and 700 block of Park Lane.

Nov. 27
Burglary - Suspects reportedly broke into a residence in the 1100 block of South Lons Street.

Theft - Officers investigated a report of a van stolen from the 1300 block of East Cardwell Street.

Nov. 26
Theft - A theft of service was reported from the 400 block of East Buckley Street.

Texas HS football playoff pairings

The Associated Press

CLASS 4A DIVISION II
 State Quarterfinals
 WF Rider (11-2) vs. Wolfroth Frenship (12-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, Wichita Falls
 Lancaster (12-1) vs. Mesquite Poteet (11-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Allen
 Manor (10-3) vs. Fort Bend Marshall (13-0), 8 p.m. Saturday, Alamodome
 Cedar Park (11-2) vs. SA Northside Brennan (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Alamodome

CLASS 3A DIVISION II
 State Quarterfinals
 Graham (12-1) vs. Gatesville (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Stephenville
 Henderson (9-4) vs. Gilmer (12-1), 7 p.m. Friday, Longview
 West Orange-Stark (13-0) vs. Navasota (13-0), 7 p.m. Friday, Humble's Turner Stadium
 Bellville (10-3) vs. Port Isabel (10-3), 6 p.m. Saturday, CC's Cabannis Field

CLASS 2A DIVISION I
 State Quarterfinals
 Wall (11-1) vs. Eastland (10-2), 7 p.m. Friday, Brownwood
 Daingerfield (10-3) vs. New Boston (12-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Mount Pleasant
 Franklin (10-2) vs. Newton (12-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Lufkin
 Cameron Yoe (12-0) vs. Hallettsville (12-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Bastrop

CLASS 1A DIVISION I
 State Quarterfinals
 Stratford (11-1) vs. Stamford (11-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Lubbock Cooper
 Goldthwaite (7-5) vs. Italy (8-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Glen Rose
 Alto (11-2) vs. Mart (10-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Athens
 Shiner (11-1) vs. Mason (12-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Round Rock's Reeves Complex

CLASS 1A DIVISION II
 State Quarterfinals
 Wellington (12-0) vs. Sudan (11-2), 7 p.m. Friday, Canyon's Kimbrough Stadium
 Albany (11-1) vs. Munday (12-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Clyde
 Tenaha (8-4) vs. Frost (12-10), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Van
 Burton (11-1) vs. Falls City (10-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Con-

verse

SIX-MAN DIVISION I
 State Semifinals
 Turkey Valley (12-0) vs. Throckmorton (11-1), 7 p.m. Saturday, Snyder
 Gordon (10-3) vs. Abbott (11-2), 7 p.m. Saturday, Hico
 State Championship Semifinal winners, 7 p.m. Dec. 15, Abilene's Shotwell Stadium

SIX-MAN DIVISION II
 State Semifinals
 Follett (8-4) vs. Grandfalls-Royalty (13-0), 6 p.m. Friday, Snyder
 Strawn (12-1) vs. Richland Springs (13-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Hico
 State Championship Semifinal winners, 2 p.m. Dec. 15, Abilene's Shotwell Stadium

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Turkey Give-Away

Official Rules

- 1) One entry per person per issue of the Brownfield News & must be 18 or older.
- 2) Form must be completed and turned in at 409 W Hill Street.
- 3) Deadline for entry is Monday, December 17, 2012 at 5:00 pm
- 4) Employees of the Brownfield News and their families are not eligible to enter
- 5) No photo copies accepted
- 6) Drawing will be held Monday, December 17, 2012 at 5:00 pm
- 7) Winner will be published in the December 19, 2012 issue of the News

Turkey is provided by United Supermarkets in Brownfield, TX.

Turkey Give-Away Entry Form

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
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 PHONE: _____

See complete rules in the pages of the Brownfield News. Deadline for entry is Monday, December 17, 2012 at 5 p.m. 1 entry per person per issue.

FORM 12/2/12

Oil & Gas

Oil falls as 'cliff' negotiations drag on
 NEW YORK (AP) — Worries over the looming "fiscal cliff" and the health of the U.S. economy are driving oil prices lower Tuesday.

U.S. lawmakers have less than a month to reach a compromise to avoid a series of sharp tax increases and spending cuts that take effect in January. Proposals from the White House and Republicans in Congress have so far not brought a deal closer.

And on Monday, there were signs that the lack of a deal may be affecting the economy. U.S. manufacturing shrank in November to its weakest level since July 2009, the Institute of Supply Management said, brought on by the impact of Superstorm Sandy and uncertainty about taxes and government spending cuts.

In Tuesday afternoon trading, benchmark crude was down 53 cents to \$88.56 a barrel in New York.

At the pump, gasoline lost less than a penny overnight to reach a national average of \$3.38 a gallon, according to AAA, Wright Express and the Oil Price Information Service. That's down almost four cents in a week but a dime higher than a year ago.

Brent crude, which is used to price international varieties of oil, lost \$1.14 to \$109.78 on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

- Other futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange:
- Heating oil fell 5 cents to \$3.01 a gallon.
 - Natural gas lost 3 cents to \$3.57 per 1,000 cubic feet.
 - Wholesale gasoline fell 3 cents to \$2.69 a gallon.

PRAIRIE CHICKEN from Page One

The survey results will be the baseline for a range-wide lesser prairie chicken management plan currently being developed by the five state wildlife agencies in collaboration with the WAFWA Grassland Initiative. This plan is expected to be completed by March 2013, and could influence the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) decision on whether or not to designate the lesser prairie chicken as a federally threatened or endangered species. The lesser prairie chicken has been considered a candidate under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) since 1998, and the Service expects to release a proposed rule on the status of the bird under the ESA in November.

To help restore habitat for the bird, state and federal experts developed a tool called Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) to work with private landowners and managers in the geographic range of the lesser prairie-chicken. This

voluntary program was designed to help reverse declining bird numbers by promoting habitat conservation and restoration through practices such as prescribed grazing, upland wildlife habitat management, brush management, prescribed burning, range planting and restoration and management of rare or declining habitats. The program also provides assurances to landowners that, beyond what is detailed in the CCAA agreement, they will not be required to meet any new regulations if the bird is listed under the Endangered Species Act. To date, close to 315,000 acres of Texas ranch land have enrolled in CCAAs.

Texas agriculture producers may sign up to manage and restore high-priority habitats for the lesser prairie chicken within eligible Texas counties, including: Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Roberts, Hemphill, Gray, Wheeler, Donley, Deaf Smith, Bailey, Lamb, Cochran, Hockley, Yoakum, Terry, Andrews, and Gaines.



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